The Story of the King's Slave: Who Had Never Seen a River Before

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Chapter 1: The Value of Safety

A Monarch and His Servant at Sea:

A king was once seated in a boat along with a foreign slave who had never seen a river before. The slave, overcome by fear, began to weep and implore for mercy. His body trembled violently. The king’s pleasure was disturbed, for a delicate disposition is ill-suited to endure such scenes.

The Wise Man’s Counsel:

In the same boat was a wise man. He said to the king that, if His Majesty permitted, he could quieten the slave by a particular method.

Wise Man:

"If you command, I shall silence him by a certain means."

The king, in his boundless kindness and generosity, granted permission.

A Lesson in Adversity:

The wise man ordered that the slave be thrown into the river. The poor man, after repeatedly plunging beneath the waves, was seized by the hair and dragged back to the side of the boat. When he was lifted aboard, he retreated to a corner of the vessel and sat there quietly, finding solace.

The King’s Inquiry:

The king marvelled at this outcome and inquired as to the wisdom behind the action.

King:

"What was the wisdom in this?"

The wise man replied that, prior to experiencing the agony of drowning, the slave had not appreciated the safety of being in the boat.

Wise Man:

"Before he had tasted the distress of drowning, he did not value the safety of the boat."